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**CHUCK HAGEL**

P R E S S   R E L E A S E



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## **Hagel Votes Against Department of Defense Spending Bill**

***\$2 billion in 'pork-barrel' projects added before final  
vote***

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) voted against the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2001 because of billions of dollars of unauthorized projects that were added to the bill before today's final vote.

"I voted for the bill when it came to the Senate floor the first time because I believe that the first priority of government is to provide a strong national defense," said Hagel. "I have supported significant and necessary increases in overall defense spending, especially spending directed at improving morale and retention. But once this bill went behind closed doors before the final vote, \$2 billion in unauthorized, 'pork-barrel' projects was added. I could not vote for a taxpayer-funded bill which includes these unnecessary projects that do nothing to improve our military readiness."

The \$2 billion was added to the DoD Appropriations bill during final negotiations between a handful of Senators and Congressmen to reconcile the two versions of the bill. Included in the \$2 billion add-on is \$7 million for the Magdellina Ridge Observatory, \$4 million for the Angel Gate Academy and \$4 million for the Hawaii federal health care network.

"The process of adding on unrelated projects to a defense spending bill does nothing to help our men and women in uniform," added Hagel. "It's a drain on taxpayers and the wrong way for Congress to do business. It is irresponsible governance."